

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
SOUTHERN DIVISION

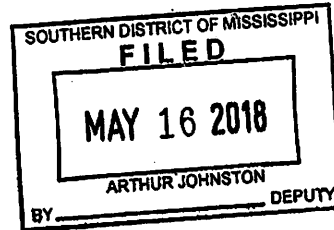
DOUGLAS HANDSHOE

PLAINTIFF

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:15cv382HSO-JCG

VAUGHN PERRET, CHARLES LEARY &
DANIEL ABEL, D/B/A TROUT
POINT LODGE LTD OF NOVA SCOTIA
& IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES
PROGRESS MEDIA GROUP LIMITED,
MARILYN SMULDERS, TORSTAR
CORPORATION, NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, ASHOKA, XYZ
FOUNDATION & JOHN DOES 1-50



DEFENDANTS

**CHARLES LEARY'S COUNTERCLAIM AS WELL AS ANSWER & DEFENSES TO
DOUGLAS HANDSHOE'S THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES,
DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Defendant Charles L. Leary ("Leary"), appearing *pro se*, responds to Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint for Damages, Declaratory and Injunctive Relief ("Complaint"), as follows, and also submits this Counterclaim against Douglas Handshoe ("Handshoe") as follows. As all remaining counts against Leary except for Count 5 have been dismissed, Defendant and Plaintiff by Counterclaim Leary will only address facts and allegations Handshoe claims are relevant to Count 5.

Answer & Defence

General Answers & Denials

1. Defendant and Plaintiff by Counterclaim Leary denies any involvement in libel terrorism or any attempt to suppress reporting on any matter of public interest, including an alleged "massive political corruption scandal" involving the former President of Jefferson Parish. Leary denies

being an “unindicted criminal co-conspirator” in any criminal activity or any conspiracy as claimed by Handshoe. Leary says such allegations are irrelevant to any causes of action claimed by Handshoe and that these inflammatory allegations were placed in the Third Amended Complaint and all previous complaints to embarrass and prejudice the Defendants, including prominently Leary.

2. Leary denies Handshoe is a journalist, journalistic editor or publisher, or is engaged in any legitimate journalistic endeavor with respect to Leary and his business interests.
3. On the contrary, two appellate courts in Louisiana have found Handshoe's blog Slabbed to have been engaged in related blogging activities that are not on matters of public interest, including blogging about a now-dismissed defendant in this case and Leary's former civil process server Chris Yount. This included Handshoe having published and distributed private information and a pornographic drawing from Yount's family court files as “clickbait” on the internet in a manner that defamed or invaded the privacy of others, according to the Louisiana court, a decision Handshoe did not appeal.
4. Handshoe has also been found by this Court to have engaged in an “internet campaign” to damage Leary and his business, after Advance Publications caused the takedown of his web site in April, 2011, when a DMCA notice was served by lawyers for Advance Publications with his web host, which event related to Handshoe's alleged infringing use of copyrighted material belonging to Advance Publications's newspaper the *Times-Picayune* on his blog Slabbed. Handshoe has been on his campaign to damage ever since.
5. Leary denies being an intellectual property expert, a lawyer, or to having used a lawyer to submit notices of copyright infringement under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act

(“DMCA”), as claimed by Handshoe.

6. Charles Leary denies being domiciled at Trout Point Lodge, 189 Trout Point Road, but admits to being a United States citizen living in Nova Scotia, Canada. Charles Leary is an author, former asst. professor of history at Tulane University who received his doctorate from Cornell University.
7. Leary denies to “doing business as” Trout Point Lodge, and to the extent that any of Handshoe's allegations or causes of action in this case rely on Leary “doing business as” Trout Point Lodge those allegations have no legal foundation.
8. Heretofore, the Plaintiff has published his allegations, including his false and unsubstantiated allegations of criminal conduct, contained in the original Complaint in this case to third parties outside the context of this legal proceeding, and heretofore this Court has found Handshoe has published material on his blog about Leary that is mean spirited, sexist, and homophobic, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has described anti-homosexual statements published by Handshoe as grotesque, this indicates his personal animus against Leary, who is gay, and other persons whom he also claimed were homosexuals, whom he has publicly described collectively as “cockroaches,” “cowards,” and “girls.” Such statements and unsubstantiated criminal allegations on the public record of this District Court, and published via a press release and on the Internet, bespeak both a general and a specific animus and malice on the part of Plaintiff Handshoe based on unreal and irrational thoughts, beliefs, and biases.

Specific Answers, Defences, and Affirmative Defences

9. In serving Leary, including Leary d/b/a/ Trout Point Lodge, the Plaintiff has not complied with the process requirements of the treaty law extant between the Commonwealth of Canada and the United States of America, more particularly *The Convention on the Service Abroad of*

Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters. All process which Plaintiff attempted in Nova Scotia was not authorized and was invalid.

10. The allegations in paragraph 67 of the 3rd Amended Complaint are denied. Defendant Leary, acting solely as a director and officer of Trout Point Lodge, Limited, used a uniform YouTube webform made available by YouTube for use internationally, including in Canada, to complain of copyright infringement violating Canadian law, specifically the Canadian *Copyright Act*, which is territorial in nature. The webform was not identified by YouTube as a notification under 17 U.S.C. 512 nor did it refer to American law.
11. The submission to YouTube on February 15, 2014, did not include any attachments such as a Canadian injunction. This is denied.
12. Leary specifically indicated on the webform that the jurisdiction involved was Canada. In addition, the infringement notice did not “claim ownership of a parody created and owned by Slabbed New Media” as claimed by Plaintiff. Leary denies claiming ownership of the video in any DMCA notice.
13. The notice identified precisely, using time measures in units of seconds, where in the video the infringing copyrighted work(s) appeared and did not refer to the entire video. That is “time stamps: 2:34 to 2:39,” 5 seconds. This was identification of the material that was claimed to be infringing and that was to be removed or access to which was to be disabled, in conformity with 17 U.S.C. 512 (c)(3), and if the entire video was removed that was not the fault of Leary but of YouTube or Handshoe himself. Handshoe has sued the wrong parties.
14. The notice was submitted one day after Nova Scotia Supreme Court found the defendants Leary, Perret, and Trout Point Lodge possessed valid copyright in the creative works used and

published without permission by the Plaintiff in the commercial video he posted to YouTube.

This formed a basis for Leary's good faith belief that Handshoe was infringing.

15. The allegations in paragraph 68 of the Third Amended Complaint are denied. YouTube did not rely on the uniform webform notice or any DMCA notice, but rather relied on subsequent communication with Leary and Trout Point Lodge as well as Canadian law in deciding what to do with the video.
16. To the extent that Handshoe has claimed he disabled the YouTube video, as stated in the Third Amended Complaint at paragraph 145, Leary says this is not actionable under 17 U.S.C. § 512. Under that statute a § 512(f) plaintiff's damages must be proximately caused by the misrepresentation to the service provider and the service provider's reliance on the misrepresentation. The statute is unambiguous in only entitling an alleged infringer to damages caused "as the result of the service provider ... removing or disabling access to the material...." 17 U.S.C. § 512(c).
17. Leary also denies any removal of the video under United States law or jurisdiction. According to YouTube's response involving Handshoe's deceitful counter notification, access to the YouTube video was not disabled in the United States, but only in Canada.
18. Handshoe's claim is not allowed under the principle of extraterritoriality, and the territorial nature of copyright law.
19. The allegations in Count 5 of the 3rd Amended Complaint are denied. In particular, the video created by Plaintiff infringed copyrights in creative works (photographs) not belonging to Plaintiff and which he had no permission to use.
20. Leary denies that any use of the copyrighted material by Handshoe constituted fair use.

Plaintiff's use was commercial, for the benefit and profit of Slabbed New Media, LLC. The video used the entirety of the creative work. Plaintiff was not parodying the work being infringed, and it is the law of the United States under *Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.*, 510 U.S. 569, 577, 114 S.Ct. 1164, 127 L.Ed.2d 500 (1994) that fair use parody must have a transformative effect on the original work. Handshoe did not transform the infringed work at all. If the video itself constitutes a parody, which is denied, then the parody was of third persons, not of the original creative work.

21. Defendant Leary, acting solely as director and officer of Trout Point Lodge, Limited, had a subjective, good faith belief that the use of the material by Plaintiff constituted copyright infringement at the moment he filled out the uniform YouTube webform and sent it to YouTube from Canada. This good faith belief included reliance on a judicial decision of Nova Scotia Supreme Court and Leary's belief the video was commercial and did not transform the original work in any way, shape, or form.
22. Leary denies that either Leary or Trout Point Lodge knowingly misrepresented that the material commercially used in its entirety in the video created by Plaintiff violated copyright or United States copyright laws. Foreign works are protected under United States copyright laws. 17 U.S.C. § 411; *Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works*; *Berne Convention Implementation Act* of 1988.
23. The allegations in paragraph 145 of the Third Amended Complaint are denied. United States courts have never found the permanent injunction from Nova Scotia Supreme Court unenforceable as that issue has never been before United States courts. In addition, the injunction was never supplied to YouTube on February 15, 2014, as claimed by Handshoe. The Defendant also denies that Plaintiff suffered any damages as a result of Leary filling out the

uniform international YouTube webform. In addition, neither Defendant Leary nor the entity he was acting for is a state actor and therefore cannot violate Plaintiff's First Amendment rights.

24. Plaintiff Handshoe states contradictory facts in the Third Amended Complaint, and thus fails to state a claim on which relief can be granted. It cannot be simultaneously true that YouTube required Plaintiff to disable access to the video and that YouTube disabled the posts containing the media identified in the notice. In addition it cannot be simultaneously true that United States courts had found a Nova Scotia Supreme Court injunction unenforceable as stated in paragraph 145 of the Third Amended Complaint and that "Trout Point does not seek to enforce the injunction" as stated in paragraph 62, quoting the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
25. The United States Court of Appeals has now so ruled in No. 13-60002 that this District Court may take judicial notice of this Plaintiff's website's content and of juridical filings by Plaintiff in this and other jurisdictions in the context of proceedings upon, inter alia, the First Defense. Plaintiff is estopped to deny the contents of any of same.
26. Plaintiff has sustained no cognizable or non-cognizable direct loss or injury to himself.
27. No such "injury" as Handshoe alleged is cognizable in the context Plaintiff has alleged.
28. Any alleged injury or loss which the Plaintiff claims he has sustained from having to respond to a copyright infringement notice falls within the ambit of the doctrine of *de minimus non curat lex*.
29. Plaintiff has failed to mitigate, or avoid entirely, any alleged direct loss or injury he has claimed conclusorily.
30. The injuries and damages, if any, sustained by Plaintiff resulted in whole or in part from his

own culpable conduct, intentional acts, contributory or comparative negligence, assumption of risk and want of care. Accordingly, any damages recovered should be reduced and/or barred in accordance with the applicable law.

31. Defendant avers that this action was filed *pro se* and filed in violation of Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 and that it is also violative of the Mississippi Litigation Accountability Act. Moreover, the filing and the maintenance of this civil action was intended to vex the Defendant and Plaintiff's actions since the filing of it unlawfully multiplied these proceedings.
32. Leary asserts the provisions of all applicable statutory caps on damages of any sort, including compensatory, punitive, non-economic or exemplary damages, under applicable regulations and/or laws.
33. The Complaint fails to plead a claim or claims with requisite specificity against Leary.
34. Leary reserves the right to amend his Answer and Defenses to assert additional defenses, cross-claims, counterclaims and other claims and defenses as deemed appropriate.
35. In response to Plaintiff's "Prayer for Relief," Leary denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any recovery or any form of relief.

COUNTERCLAIMS OF CHARLES LEARY AGAINST DOUGLAS HANDSHOE

Facts Underlying Abuse of Process, Fraud, Fraud on the Court, Malicious Prosecution, and Intentional Misrepresentation or Deceit

1. The following chronological facts are relevant to fraud, violation of a bankruptcy stay, malicious prosecution, copyright infringement, harassment, and abuse of process:
2. This dispute centers around the blog Slabbed, which has always published the writings of anonymous persons with personal motivations and vendettas. According to Slabbed,

Slabbed began as the Insurance Issues Forum, a thread on the Clarion Ledger's *Story Chat* and grew to 35 pages of information and over 38,000 page views before becoming a blog.

Actually, Slabbed began when two residents of Katrina Ground Zero – “Topbanana” and “Coastal Cowboy” – survived the extraordinary experience of having their homes reduced to slabs by the natural disaster. When it became evident Katrina Ground Zero was also Ground Zero for the Insurance Industry, they called on their longtime friend, a construction specialized CPA by trade – otherwise known as “Sop81_1” on 3800 or so blog posts to the Yahoo Finance boards. Sop a.k.a. Douglas Handshoe became the front man for the *Mississippi Insurance Forum* blog and eventually the sole author and publisher of Slabbed.

3. In mid 2009, Handshoe met certain Louisiana lawyers at a seminar for Mississippi attorneys given by Richard Trahan on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The seminar was related to post-Katrina insurance litigation. Trahan had previously worked closely with attorney Daniel G. Abel, who was a business associate of Leary. Trahan promoted the Slabbed blog to Abel. The two later had a falling out. Trahan would subsequently post using pseudonym(s) on the Slabbed blog.
4. In January, 2010, Handshoe suddenly shifted the blog's focus from post-Katrina insurance issues in Mississippi to a political corruption scandal in Louisiana. Handshoe commenced publishing about Leary and his business in January, 2010. Leary did not know Handshoe.
5. Aaron Broussard resigned from office in January, 2010.
6. Throughout 2010 and 2011, largely based on the Broussard scandal, Douglas Handshoe endeavored to make Slabbed into a commercial enterprise similar to other online blogging sites like the Huffington Post. He actively attempted to recruit bloggers to the site, including

commenters using pseudonyms. He was financially supported in this enterprise by Jennifer Handshoe, without whose assistance he could not have continued the enterprise. He referred to the cohort of persons supporting his blogging activities as The Slabbed Nation. At one point in time Handshoe also announced the formation of a Nova Scotia chapter of The Slabbed Nation.

7. In his new publishing efforts focused on alleged corruption in Louisiana, Handshoe acted in concert with third parties including Louisiana lawyers he had recently met, including a former Jefferson Parish councilwoman who was at that time an assistant Jefferson Parish attorney. They worked to create a public social media campaign with targeted attacks on Aaron Broussard and his administration. Broussard was still under active investigation by the United States Department of Justice and the Louisiana Board of Ethics, as well as mainstream media journalists, for alleged corruption.
8. The Parish attorney in question was a gatekeeper, responsible for providing public records of Jefferson Parish government to federal investigators, to federal Grand Juries, the U.S. Attorney's Office, to journalists, and to bloggers. These online attacks included numerous anonymous comment posts on web sites, including prominently nola.com, slabbed.wordpress.com, and slabbed.org. Techniques employed by Handshoe and others included "sock puppetry" or the use of multiple online aliases by one person to achieve a certain goal or outcome, including molding or changing public opinion and attempting to put purported public pressure on investigatory & prosecutorial agencies. This sock puppetry coincided in time and location with similar use of online aliases on public web sites, including nola.com, by persons related to the Broussard investigation. A major target of the federal investigation was the awarding of a waste disposal contract to the River Birch Landfill by Jefferson Parish while Mr. Broussard was president. The contract was allegedly worth in excess of 400 million dollars.

9. The online sock-puppetry was coordinated by Vandenweghe and Handshoe with mainstream media coverage of Broussard's administration in early January, 2010, including a “gotcha” interview of Broussard by journalist Val Bracy on the New Orleans Fox television affiliate, and front-page news stories by the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* newspaper, which was owned by Advance Publications. Such news coverage included the false revelation that public servant Broussard owned Trout Point Lodge in Nova Scotia, Canada—a 14,000 square foot, riverside, luxury lodge. This was fake news based on purportedly anonymous tips given to the Metropolitan Crime Commission in New Orleans, which in turn filed a complaint with the Louisiana Ethics Board regarding Broussard's alleged property activities in Nova Scotia. The television and newspaper news stories ran the same day the ethics complaint was sent by post, before it was actually received by the Ethics Board.
10. In fact, Broussard owned a vacation home near and on the same river system as Trout Point Lodge. He did not own or have any interest in Trout Point Lodge, Limited.
11. Both the Fox News affiliate and the Times-Picayune later retracted and apologized for reporting any implication that Broussard owned Trout Point Lodge, or that the Lodge and its proprietors were involved in alleged political corruption.
12. Handshoe used the Broussard scandal and information provided by the Jefferson Parish attorney among other members of The Slabbed Nation to attract the audience he believed necessary to pursue his commercial ambitions for the web site Slabbed, i.e. increase its audience via tabloid-style publications and allegations.
13. In April, 2011, in furtherance of his commercial ambitions, Handshoe created Slabbed New Media, LLC, a Mississippi limited liability company, to engage in commercial publishing of the

Slabbed blog. Jennifer Handshoe witnessed the corporate creation documents. Handshoe negotiated the takeover and control of the web site from a person known online as Nowdoucit. Handshoe personally also purchased the URLs slabbed.org and slabbed.com as homes for the web site. Jennifer Handshoe provided financial support for Douglas Handshoe's publishing activities and also acted at times as an officer and agent of Slabbed New Media.

14. As part of its Trout Point Lodge-related retraction efforts, in April, 2011, lawyers for the Times-Picayune's parent company, Advance Publications, sent a copyright infringement notice to the new web host of slabbed.org—GoDaddy! Slabbed was at that time publishing without permission a retracted Times-Picayune news story about Trout Point Lodge in its entirety. Upon receiving the letter from Advance Publications' attorneys, instead of removing the infringing material from publication, GoDaddy! cut off Slabbed hosting services entirely.
15. In reaction to having his web site shut down due to alleged copyright infringement, which he viewed as an insult to what he claimed as his First Amendment rights, Handshoe began an internet campaign to damage Trout Point Lodge and its proprietors, including plaintiff by counterclaim Leary. Handshoe piggy-backed on the retracted *Times-Picayune* stories linking Trout Point Lodge with alleged corruption in Jefferson Parish. Under the guise of “investigative blogging,” Handshoe and The Slabbed Nation created and published a false conspiracy theory in which Trout Point Lodge and its founders were involved in criminal collusion with Broussard to launder money and funnel kickbacks. Handshoe did not launch a similar attack on his web host or the Times-Picayune, the entities proximately responsible for removing his web hosting services. The same kind of online sock puppetry used against Broussard was also used against Trout Point Lodge and Leary.
16. Handshoe was served with a notice to cease and desist his false publications relating to Trout

Point Lodge in the spring of 2011, which only cause him to redouble his publishing efforts.

17. Concurrent with state and federal investigations of Broussard, civil lawsuits had been filed in Louisiana that paralleled or were factually inter-related with the federal criminal pursuit of Broussard. One was filed by Waste Remediation of Plaquemines—a rival waste disposal company to River Birch Landfill—and one by close Handshoe associate Anne-Marie Vandenberghe, the one-time Jefferson Parish attorney in charge of Public Record Requests. Waste Remediation was owned and controlled by the Lauricella family of Jefferson Parish. Vandenberghe in turn had close personal ties to the Lauricella family. Vandenberghe was represented by Handshoe's Louisiana attorney Jack E. "Bobby" Truitt, who also became Handshoe's attorney. Waste Remediation was represented by the Smith & Fawer law firm. At the time of the Slabbed blog coverage of the Broussard scandal and of the Trout Point Lodge conspiracy theory, the blog attracted a large viewership and was operated for purposes of commercial advantage and private financial gain as defined by 17 USC § 101. In addition, the publishing of conspiracy theories and the use of sock puppetry on Slabbed and on other web sites like nola.com was directly related to efforts by Vandenberghe and the Lauricellas to gain financially via their civil lawsuits.
18. In May, 2010, Steve Theriot, the interim president of Jefferson Parish filed lawsuit seeking the identities behind 11 user accounts of posters on the nola.com and Slabbed web sites. Theriot and the parish government were plaintiffs. The suit claimed that the posters put up false and defamatory messages. Theriot also accused Vandenberghe of posting to these web sites. The suit was later withdrawn.
19. All monies earned by Slabbed New Media were distributed on a regular basis to Handshoe personally.

20. At this same time in 2011 and 2012, Handshoe and Slabbed New Media, LLC began illegally downloading, copying, storing, and distributing copyrighted commercial photographs belonging to Trout Point Lodge, Vaughn Perret, and Charles Leary. At least 5 photographs were illegally appropriated by Handshoe and Slabbed New Media, LLC, and such works had a value of over \$5000.00. All remain in illegal publication today. Handshoe has admitted these photographs were “taken from the servers” of Expedia, the *Toronto Star*, Progress Media, and Ashoka, among other places. Handshoe had no permission to copy, store, and distribute these photographs, and intentionally took them knowing the works were copyrighted or with negligent disregard for whether his actions violated copyright. He did so for personal financial gain.
21. At the time these photographs were illegally published at www.slabbed.org, that web site was registered in Handshoe's personal name. Handshoe only changed the registration of the web site to Slabbed New Media, LLC late in the pendancy of the Slabbed New Media bankruptcy proceeding in 2016 after Leary and other creditors pointed out to the Court that the web site was not an asset of Slabbed New Media, LLC but rather was Handshoe's personal property.
22. Leary has been assigned the United States rights in the photographs at issue, including the right to action.
23. These photographs appeared on the Slabbed blog as part of commercial publishing activities, in return for which the Slabbed enterprise received monies from outside of Mississippi. In addition, via the Internet, the stolen photographs were transmitted and transferred in interstate and foreign commerce. The infringing activities of Handshoe and Slabbed New Media, LLC constituted an enterprise engaged in interstate and foreign commerce via the Internet, and included receiving monies from outside of Mississippi via PayPal and check.

24. In addition, after Handshoe was successfully sued for defamation, injurious falsehood, civil harassment, and other causes of action in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in 2012, Handshoe and Slabbed New Media published words and images on Slabbed.org aimed at the extraction of the valuable money judgment against Handshoe from Leary and his fellow plaintiffs by threatening and placing Leary and his fellow judgment creditors in fear of personal injury. This included the threat published in September, 2011, at <http://slabbed.org/2011/09/14/misfire-slabbed-catches-up-with-aaron-broussard-as-he-and-trout-point-owner-danny-abel-sue-the-author-of-the-literary-flop-outgunned-a-legal-jackassery-update/#comment-3705>
25. In May, 2011, after considering affidavit evidence and live testimony, Nova Scotia Supreme Court found evidence of an insider connection between anonymous persons publishing on the Slabbed blog and the Fox News affiliate in New Orleans. The Court ordered that the Slabbed web host, Automattic, Inc., provide identifying information regarding the anonymous publishers, who were some of the same sock puppets engaged in commentary on the Broussard scandal and the Trout Point Lodge conspiracy theory.
26. Jack E. Truitt posted on the Slabbed blog, paid monies to support Slabbed blogging activities on or around September 19, 2013, and publicly encouraged others to contribute monies, including in early February, 2014.
27. In the Fall of 2012, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi was considering blocking enforcement of Leary, Vaughn Perret, and Trout Point Lodge's Canadian money judgment against Handshoe under the SPEECH Act of 2010. Handshoe was represented by G. Gerald Cruthird and Jack E. Truitt. The judge in that case perused the Slabbed blog after the close of submissions by the parties, specifically in October, 2012, as reflected in the court's decision on cross motions for summary judgment.

28. At the same time, Waste Remediation of Plaquemines amended its civil lawsuit to include Trout Point Lodge and Aaron Broussard as alleged co-conspirators in the alleged effort to deprive Waste Remediation of a waste disposal contract and to allegedly cover up the wrongdoing. Both Slabbed and nola.com obtained the same PDF copy of the amended complaint within hours of it being filed in Louisiana. The PDF was created in the offices of Smith & Fawer. Both Slabbed and nola.com published the amended complaint to the Internet that day. The case was later removed to U.S. district court, at which point Trout Point Lodge and Broussard were both mistakenly listed on the docket as defendants, an error that was not corrected until 2013. Neither were actually ever defendants in that litigation.
29. In October, 2012, Handshoe and Slabbed sock puppets also began publishing the falsehood that Leary's former business partner, and Trout Point co-founder, Daniel Abel and Aaron Broussard were law partners. This false statement of facts was intended to falsely closely link the financial and business interests of Broussard with that of Trout Point Lodge and its founders.
30. In December, 2012, the U.S. district court rendered its decision and relied, in part, on the false facts that Daniel Abel was Aaron Broussard's law partner and that Trout Point Lodge and Broussard were co-defendants in the Waste Remediation of Plaquemines lawsuit, and were alleged to have engaged in a racketeering enterprise.
31. During 2013, Handshoe made general appearances in case no. 411345 in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, originally filed as an Application in Court for copyright infringement in January of that year. In court papers Handshoe flatly denied having any contact with attorneys for Waste Remediation of Plaquemines at the Smith & Fawer law firm. Yet, later, in an affidavit filed in connection with a motion for an anti-suit injunction filed with this district court, Handshoe said he received the amended complaint directly from attorney Stephen Gelee of Smith & Fawer.

32. On May 17, 2013, Handshoe filed suit in defamation in Hancock County Circuit Court cause no. 13-0175 against Michael Coyle, a Nova Scotia attorney and legal commentator who had published legal commentary on a judicial decision, *Trout Point Lodge Ltd. v. Handshoe*, 2012 NSSC 245. Handshoe subsequently had Coyle noted in default.
33. After Handshoe tried to file a motion with the Canadian court in case 411345 using the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure of the United States district courts, in April, 2013, that court instructed Handshoe to file a proper motion under the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules* by an extended deadline of May 24, 2013.
34. On May 21, 2013, Handshoe filed suit in Hancock County Circuit Court cause number 13-0186, against Leary, Vaughn Perret, Daniel Abel, Aaron Broussard, Chris Yount, Trout Point Lodge, and Nova Scotia Enterprises, LLC. That case was then removed by all defendants to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Handshoe had Broussard noted in default.
35. In affidavits filed in U.S. district court one month after removal of the case, Handshoe stated that his damages totalled \$25,000. (No. 1: 13CV251-LG-JMR, ECF Nos. 19-1, 20-1, 24-1). In his brief concerning subject matter jurisdiction, Handshoe itemized those damages and specifically stated that the damages he sought at the time of removal totalled \$25,000. He also submitted an affidavit in which he specifically disavowed his right to recover any damages in excess of \$74,999.99 in that lawsuit.
36. On September 23, 2013, that case was remanded by this court to state court based on Handshoe's representations and sworn evidence.
37. On November 26, 2013, Handshoe filed a motion for summary judgment with Nova Scotia

Supreme Court.

38. On December 11, 2013, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi in case no. 1:2012-cv-00090 granted Handshoe's motion for attorney's fees under the SPEECH Act, awarding Handshoe \$48,000 to be paid by Leary, Vaughn Perret, and Trout Point Lodge, Limited.
39. On February 14, 2014, Nova Scotia Supreme Court awarded damages of \$180,000 for copyright infringement and \$210,000 for defamation against Handshoe in favor of Leary, Vaughn Perret, and Trout Point Lodge. In February, Handshoe learned the Plaintiffs in that case were seeking to enroll the copyright infringement judgment in Mississippi.
40. On March 5, 2014, Handshoe transferred ownership in the \$48,000 attorney's fee judgment debt to his Louisiana attorney Jack "Bobby" Truitt, who had appeared in the case *pro hac vice*. The transfer was done by instrument notarized in Mississippi and subsequently relied upon by Truitt in court pleadings in Louisiana.
41. On April 10, 2014, Handshoe filed suit in this district court against Daniel Abel and Chris Yount. Yount was the civil process server used by Leary to serve Handshoe with civil process. Case no 1:14-cv-00159-KS-MTP.
42. On October 8, 2014, Handshoe filed with this court a motion for writ of garnishment in case 1:2012-cv-00090 and falsely represented to the court that he, not Truitt, owned the \$48,000 attorney's fee judgment.
43. On October 9, 2014, Handshoe purportedly emailed Truitt to purportedly "rescind" the previous transfer of the debt to Truitt with no indication of valuable consideration.
44. On October 31, 2014, Handshoe filed an amended complaint in cause no. 13-0186 in Hancock

County Circuit Court, against Leary, Daniel Abel, Vaughn Perret, Trout Point Lodge, Limited, Chris Yount, Aaron Broussard, and Nova Scotia Enterprises, L.L.C., and caused process to issue, in which he claimed damages of \$2,451,000.00. This contradicted his representations and sworn promises to this court regarding the amount in controversy, as reported in *Handshoe v. Broussard*, Cause No. 1: 13CV251-LG-JMR (S.D. Miss. Sept. 23, 2013).

45. On January 6, 2015, Handshoe executed an Assignment of Rights & Claims in which he conveyed and transferred the entirety of the \$48,000 attorney's fees judgment debt to Slabbed New Media, LLC.
46. On February 13, 2015 Handshoe filed a defamation suit in Hancock County Circuit Court against the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* newspaper, case no. 15-0062, over an article the newspaper had published about the Canadian judicial decision Trout Point Lodge Ltd. v. Handshoe, 2014 NSSC 62. That case was removed to this court, case 1:15-cv-00106-LG-RHW and resolved out of court.
47. On February 23, 2015, Handshoe filed a defamation suit in Hancock County Circuit Court, case no. 15-0072, against the *Toronto Star* newspaper and journalist Peter Edwards, who had published about the judicial decision Trout Point Lodge Ltd. v. Handshoe, 2014 NSSC 62. That case was removed to this court, Case 1:15-cv-00113-KS-RHW, and ultimately dismissed.
48. On March 13, 2015, Handshoe filed an amended complaint naming not only Abel and Yount, but also attorney and law clinic director Ramona Fernandez, law student Janey Lamar, and the Stuart Smith Law Clinic of Loyola University of New Orleans in this court, case no 1:14-cv-00159-KS-MTP.
49. On June 16, 2015, Louisiana Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied Handshoe's motion

for a rehearing of its decision *Yount v. Handshoe*, 171 So.3d 381, 387 (La.App. 5 Cir. 2015), which obligated Handshoe to pay mandatory attorney's fees under the Louisiana anti-SLAPP statute (La CCP 971). That same day, via counsel Handshoe placed Slabbed New Media, LLC, a company of which he was the managing member, into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Handshoe signed and filed papers stating that the same \$48,000 attorney's fee judgment debt was owned by Slabbed New Media, LLC, and was subject to the bankruptcy court's jurisdiction.

50. A bankruptcy case concerning Slabbed New Media, LLC was filed under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, entered on 06/16/2015 at 2:46 PM and filed on 06/16/2015. The filing of the bankruptcy case automatically stayed collection and other actions against the debtor and the debtor's property, and Handshoe was aware of the stay. Process was issued to Leary, Vaughn Perret, Trout Point Lodge, Daniel Abel, Chris Yount, and Jack E. Truitt as alleged creditors. That bankruptcy case was dismissed on September 16, 2016 and closed on October 18, 2016.
51. Nearly simultaneously to filing the bankruptcy, Handshoe caused Slabbed New Media, LLC to file a reconventional demand in Louisiana's 24th Judicial District Court, *Yount v Handshoe*, case no. 736-680, stating that it had indemnified Handshoe for the \$48,000 in attorney's fees, and that it owned the judgment debt, which it somehow claimed a right to recovery in that lawsuit involving Chris Yount. Handshoe filed a "suggestion of bankruptcy" motion staying that case.
52. On November 13, 2015, Hancock County Circuit Court dismissed *without prejudice* Leary, Vaughn Perret, and Trout Point Lodge's first enrolment of the Canadian Order for money damages for copyright infringement against Handshoe.

53. On November 16, 2015, Handshoe initiated the instant action, causing process to issue. On November 20, 2015, Handshoe issued a press release about this action and sent it along with a copy of the original Complaint in this case to, on information and belief, hundreds of persons, including mainstream media outlets in the United States and Canada. The press release and complaint were actually published publicly on the “Jackson Jambalaya” web site in Mississippi as well as at URL <http://documents.tips/documents/slabbed-press-release.html> as late as July 16, 2016.
54. On January 6, 2016, Handshoe filed an amended complaint and caused process to issue in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi case no 1:14-cv-00159-KS-MTP Handshoe v. Abel. A summons was issued for Leary and Vaughn Perret. That amended complaint was dismissed *sua sponte* by the court.
55. On August 17, 2016, Defendant by counterclaim Handshoe and his attorney Jack “Bobby” Truitt filed a motion with the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi in case no. 1:2012-cv-00090 without giving notice to the Plaintiffs in that case, including Leary, of the motion. Truitt appeared *pro hac vice* and yet the motion was not signed by any supervising attorney and the case was closed. Attorney of record for Leary and Trout Point Lodge, M. Judith Barnett told Leary in writing that she never received any notices or process in that case. The motion commenced a post-judgment supplementary proceeding in which process issued. This was during the pendency of the Slabbed bankruptcy. Handshoe filed the motion for the judgment debtor examination in his personal name, but did not inform the court of the transfer of the debt to Slabbed New Media, the bankruptcy proceeding, any indemnification, and the automatic stay. Failure to disclose a material fact may constitute a knowing misrepresentation.

56. Handshoe's motion was for an order scheduling a judgment debtor examination in Gulfport, Mississippi, for the Plaintiffs in that case, including Leary. The lack of notice to the Plaintiffs, including Leary, was intentional. At that time, Leary was on the docket of that case as *pro se* with his Canadian address on file. Handshoe and his attorney knew how to contact Leary and were in communication with him by telephone and email at that time regarding an appeal filed July 22, 2016, in that case with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
57. Despite the fact that no notice was given to Leary and his fellow Plaintiff Perret, who were on the docket as *pro se*, Defendant by counterclaim Handshoe through his attorney Truitt filed a false certificate of service for that motion. This was fraud or intentional misrepresentation that injured Leary.
58. After the start of the supplementary proceeding in aid of execution of which Leary and his fellow plaintiffs had no authorized or proper notice, Leary communicated with the court to inform the court of what had occurred and copied that correspondence to Handshoe. The court responded to tell Leary how to order a transcript of the judgment debtor examination hearing.
59. On January 5, 2017, in Mississippi state court, Leary and his fellow plaintiffs prevailed over Handshoe's objections to the second enrolment and execution on the judgment of Nova Scotia Supreme Court against him for copyright infringement in Hancock County Circuit Court cause number 15-0458. All the time, Handshoe has continued to commercially publish the photographs belonging to Leary, Perret, and Trout Point Lodge in violation of United States and Canadian copyright law.
60. On May 15, 2017, Handshoe was personally served with a state court writ of execution relating to the copyright infringement judgment.

61. On May 16, 2017, Handshoe filed a motion in case 12-cv-90 for contempt and for a show cause order as to why the plaintiffs should not be held in contempt based on Leary and his fellow plaintiffs not appearing for the fraudulently- and illegally-obtained supplementary proceeding and judgment debtor examination in 2016.
62. Handshoe caused process to issue related to the show cause order.
63. On July 28, 2017, Handshoe filed a motion for a writ of execution in this court in case 12-cv-90 based on the \$48,000 attorney's fee judgment, however Handshoe was no longer the judgment creditor.
64. On August 14, 2017, Handshoe was deposed. In that deposition Handshoe admitted to being indemnified for the \$48,000 in attorney's fees and that Slabbed New Media, LLC had owned the judgment debt since January 6, 2015, up to the day of the deposition.

Claim Under 11 U.S.C. § 362

65. This Court has original jurisdiction over this claim under 11 U.S.C. § 362(k) under 28 U.S. Code § 1334(a).
66. During August, 2016, under 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) the U.S. Bankruptcy Court had in place a stay, applicable to all entities, including Douglas Handshoe, of any act to obtain possession of property of the estate, or of property from the estate, or to exercise control over property of the estate of Slabbed New Media, LLC.
67. Leary was a creditor in that bankruptcy proceeding. Handshoe was also the debtor-in-possession and a creditor in that proceeding.
68. On August 17, 2016, both Handshoe and attorney Jack E. Truitt were aware of the § 362(a)

stay. Truitt was a creditor in that proceeding. The case was not dismissed until September 16, 2016.

69. Handshoe's action that day in commencing a supplementary proceeding to execute on the \$48,000 judgment debt belonging to Slabbed New Media, part of the estate, willfully violated that stay. Moreover, such willful violation of the stay was motivated by malice and was done in bad faith; it was egregious, oppressive, and high-handed, including the intentional omission of information to this district court and the use of a false certificate of service to accomplish an intentional act.
70. Leary suffered actual damages including damage to his entrepreneurial goodwill, sleeping problems, anxiety, and physical symptoms of stress as well as actual costs, tremendous lost time, and legal costs including PACER fees. Leary prays for actual damages and attorney's fees. Leary also requests punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact for Handshoe's egregious conduct.
71. In addition, Leary prays that any and all orders of this Court resulting from Handshoe's willful violation of the stay, are found void *ab initio*, or in the alternative are voidable and must be voided, and such orders illegally obtained have injured Leary.

Malicious Prosecution

72. Handshoe filed four (4) complaints in this case, and it was at his insistence that Slabbed New Media filed a motion to intervene in this case. Slabbed and Handshoe share the same legal counsel. Plaintiff is a member or manager of, and operates, Slabbed. Handshoe has known or reasonably should have known of his lack of true interest in this case since the takedown notices were sent, or certainly by the date the original Complaint was filed on November 16, 2015.

73. Handshoe's motivation was malicious in that he had no foundation for bringing the action in his personal name, as evidenced by the Slabbed intervention, the fact that he never had standing, and his futile amendments over one year and a half, which damaged Leary substantially. His true purpose in the institution of this judicial proceeding, and the motion to intervene, was to coerce and inflict injury and embarrassment, and to vex Leary and his fellow defendants. Leary incurred tens of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees and legal costs. Handshoe had no probable cause to bring the lawsuit, as stated above.

74. Leary prevailed on all counts in this case save Count Five. Each of these counts was an instance of malicious prosecution by Handshoe.

Fraud Including Fraud Upon the Court

75. The fraudulent transfers of the \$48,000 attorney's fee judgment debt caused injury to Leary, including the costs of appearing in the bankruptcy proceeding when in fact Leary was not a judgment creditor of Slabbed New Media, LLC and the costs associated with extricating himself from the improperly obtained show cause order and the prior compulsory process, including attorney's fees and legal costs. Handshoe fraudulently represented to this court that he was still the judgment creditor when he knew that he was not the judgment creditor anymore, and had in fact been indemnified and had no injury. Handshoe knew he had no standing to commence the supplementary proceeding in case 12-cv-90 when he did so.

76. As of February 14, 2014, Handshoe was a debtor of Leary. Handshoe made at least one transfer on on March 5, 2014, with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud Leary out of the just collection of the debt, or at least a part of the debt. Handshoe made a transfer to Jack E. Truitt and the Truitt Law Firm; Leary was at that time a creditor of Douglas Handshoe; Handshoe

made the transfer and incurred obligations with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud Leary and his capacity to collect the legitimate debt.

77. At the time of the subsequent transfer of the debt to Slabbed New Media Leary was still a creditor of Douglas Handshoe; Handshoe made the transfer and incurred obligations with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud Leary and his capacity to collect the legitimate debt.
78. Leary acted to his detriment and incurred liability as a result of Handshoe's misrepresentations regarding ownership of a judgment debt ordered by this Court. Handshoe made false representations of material facts with knowledge of their falsity for the purpose of inducing the plaintiff and the court to act thereon. Handshoe intended that the falsehood that he owned the judgment debt should be acted on by the hearers—including Leary & the Court--and in the manner reasonably contemplated. Leary and the Court were ignorant of this falsity. Leary and the court relied upon Handshoe's representations as true and acted upon them to Leary's damage. This included false certificates of service and acts of fraudulent omission in intentionally not informing this court of the true ownership of the \$48,000 judgment debt and the bankruptcy.
79. There were instances of fraud in the bankruptcy court, in this court in case no. 1: 13-CV-251, and case no 1:12-cv-90.
80. There are numerous badges of fraud relating to Handshoe's transfers, including: the transfers were to an insider; Handshoe retained control of the property transferred after the transfer; the transfer was disclosed or concealed; before the transfer was made Handshoe had been sued or threatened with suit, including the judgment enforcement action(s) in Mississippi; the transfer was of substantially portion of the debtor's assets; the value of the consideration received by

Handshoe was not reasonably equivalent to the value of the asset transferred; the transfer(s) occurred shortly before or shortly after a substantial debt was incurred.

Abuse of Process

81. Plaintiff, Defendant by Counterclaim, Douglas K. Handshoe used process issued in the State of Mississippi to coerce Defendant, Plaintiff by Counterclaim Leary to cease his legitimate efforts to sue Handshoe for defamation and copyright infringement. Handshoe subsequently used such process for the improper and collateral purpose of blackmailing or coercing Leary into stopping his enrollment and execution upon a copyright infringement judgment of Nova Scotia Supreme Court rendered on February 14, 2014. Finally, Handshoe used the process that issued to delay Leary's enforcement efforts regarding the Canadian copyright infringement judgment so that he could illegally transfer assets out of Leary's reach, which was not an intended purpose of the process that issued.
82. In particular, Handshoe caused process to issue in a way that was an abuse of process in the following ongoing cases: (a) Handshoe v. Broussard, et. al. (Hancock County Circuit Court), which case is ongoing or has not been dismissed; (b) Trout Point Lodge, et. al. v. Handshoe (U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, compulsory process issued in 2016 and 2017); (c) In re: Slabbed New Media, LLC (U.S Bankruptcy Court, case dismissed September 16, 2016); and (d) the instant case, including its various amendments. Being subject to these lawsuits Leary suffered damage not only from the initial complaint but from the cumulative costs of defense and the reputational harm caused by the unresolved claims as well as the issuance of additional process, such as order(s) to show cause and orders mandating compulsory process.

83. Handshoe published the original complaint in this case along with a purported press release on the same day he filed the original complaint. Such publication was unprivileged. The complaint and press release were sent to hundreds of persons on Handshoe's email list, including in Mississippi and in Nova Scotia, with the intent of impugning Leary's reputation and character. This was not the intended purpose when process was issued in this case.
84. Handshoe fraudulently obtained and used the post-judgment discovery process and the use of contempt powers in a way not contemplated by law. The use of a motion for contempt as a negotiating tool, or to threaten and intimidate, constitutes an abuse of the process of this court which should not be tolerated.
85. Handshoe's various Mississippi lawsuits against Torstar, parent of the *Toronto Star*, the Halifax *Chronicle-Herald*, the National Geographic Society, Progress Media, Marilyn Smulders, Michael Coyle, Ashoka, and Chris Yount were designed to cause injury to organizations and persons with whom Leary had established and favourable relationships. Most had given awards or positive publicity to Leary. The issuance of process in these lawsuits did cause injury to Leary by ruining his relationship to those entities and persons—many of whom had published very positively about Leary and his business—before such process issued.

Misrepresentation under 17 USC 512(f)

86. Handshoe filed DMCA counter notifications in which he swore under penalty of perjury that he had a good faith belief that his use of Leary's copyrighted images did not constitute copyright infringement.
87. Handshoe did so with YouTube on July 14, 2014, and he did so with AWS (Amazon Web Services) in late January, 2016, *after* Nova Scotia Supreme Court found him liable for copyright

infringement, and finding Leary and his fellow Plaintiffs owned the copyright in the images that were the subject of the DMCA counter notifications. (Exhibits “D” and “E”).

88. Handshoe knew when he took and published the works not belonging to him that he was infringing copyright in foreign works. Handshoe is personally liable for copyright infringement under the law regardless of whether the copyrighted works were published on a web site owned by his sole-proprietorship limited liability company.
89. The works about which Handshoe issued counter notifications were registered with the Intellectual Property Office in Canada. He had no good faith belief they belonged to him or that he could put them on the commercial web site Slabbed. He knew that any notices of infringement served on his web hosts and any subsequent removals of the infringing works were not done in error when he served the counter notifications on his web hosts.
90. Leary was damaged in having to research and respond to all of Handshoe's counter notifications, and in having his copyrighted works continue to be used in an infringing manner by Handshoe. Handshoe circumvented and perverted a process that was intended by Congress to provide an efficient, inexpensive, extra-judicial means of resolving copyright disputes.

Copyright Infringement

91. Leary is the owner of the United States rights, including the right to action, of the foreign copyrighted photographic works at the heart of this case. That is: (a) a photograph of Charles Leary and Vaughn Perret at the Geotourism Summit of the National Geographic Society once used in an article published by Ashoka about Leary and Perret as social entrepreneurs; (b) a photograph of Trout Point Lodge taken by Vaughn Perret and used extensively to promote Leary's business interests; (c) a photograph of Leary and Perret with their dog used with

permission by the *Toronto Star* in an article about their legal victory against Handshoe in 2012; and (d) a photograph of Leary, Perret, and Daniel Abel taken by Marilyn Smulders and used in a positive business article by Progress Magazine, and subsequently used to promote Leary's business interests. All four works are registered with the Intellectual Property Office in Canada. They do not and did not belong to Handshoe and he had no right to copy, distribute, or publish the four works.

92. Handshoe created illegal copies of those photographs and caused the photographs to be published on the Slabbed commercial web site in violation of copyright. All four photographs are still in illegal publication on today's date—that is there has been continuous infringing publication of all four works.

93. Leary seeks an order that Handshoe immediately remove the photographs from publication, that he destroy all copies of the works, and that he be enjoined from possessing or publishing the works in the future.

Tortious Interference with Contractual Relations and with Business Relations, Harassment

94. In apparent efforts to locate Leary and Vaughn Perret not only to serve them with process but also as part of his plan to intimidate them, Defendant by Counterclaim Handshoe engaged a person (“MK”) purportedly located in British Columbia, Canada, to falsely claim interest in purchasing Trout Point Lodge starting on February 2, 2017 and continuing for several months thereafter.

95. These falsehoods, which Leary relied upon, caused Leary to lose business opportunities and interfered with Leary's contractual relations with other persons interested in purchasing Trout Point Lodge. This included the fraudulent engagement in a contract of purchase and sale with

Handshoe's agent MK. The value of the lost or fraudulent contract is \$2,750,000 Canadian dollars.

96. Acting on information provided to him by MK, Handshoe caused a person whose name was purportedly "Bob Watson" to check into Trout Point Lodge on September 16, 2017, disrupt normal business operations, threaten violence, and impugn Leary and his goodwill in the eyes of Trout Point Lodge employees. "Bob Watson," who arrived dressed like a biker gang member, was hired by bailiff service owner Stephen Kennedy of Halifax, Nova Scotia, who was hired by Handshoe. Handshoe also caused earlier incidents where purported process servers intentionally disrupted business operations and harmed goodwill.


Prayer for Relief

97. NOW, HAVING ANSWERED, Leary prays that Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint be dismissed on its merits with prejudice and with all costs and fees assessed against Plaintiff Handshoe, together with such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

98. IN ADDITION, Leary prays for the following relief for his counterclaims: damages for abuse of process, malicious prosecution, fraud, tortious interference & harassment; relief under the Copyright Act, including an injunction ordering Handshoe, whether as the sole member of Slabbed New Media or personally, to immediately cease publication of any and all of Leary's copyrighted photographs as well as damages and attorney's fees for misrepresentation under the DMCA; that the show cause order and compulsory process issued in case 12-cv-90 be declared void due to Handshoe's lack of standing and fraud on the court; for the relief prayed for in paragraphs 70 and 71 above, and for any and all other relief the court deems just, including but not limited to appropriate punitive damages.

This the 11th day of May, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
DEFENDANT (PLAINTIFF BY COUNTERCLAIM)
DR. CHARLES L. LEARY


appearing pro se

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Charles Leary, defendant and plaintiff by counterclaim, hereby certify that I have this date filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court via postal channels, and that the ECF system will send notification of such filing to the following:

Douglas Handshoe
Post Office Box 788
110 Hall Street
Wiggins, MS 39577

Pro Se Plaintiff/Defendant by counterclaim

So certified, this 11th day of May, 2018.



Charles L. Leary